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Facts And Unreality

On a filmed television interview the other night, Allen Dulles, director of the ~~Central Intelligence Agency~~, made one statement worth quoting about the Soviet Union's intelligence network. After admitting that the Russians were good at collecting data, he said, "I don't think the people who analyze the intelligence they get know these other countries well enough."

This more or less confirms what others have said who know the Soviet Union and the Russians very well. For a number of years after the Revolution of 1917 they virtually were out of touch with the outside world. Most of the people who had then, like the old-line diplomats, were either dead or exiled.

The new people, with few exceptions, never had been out of Russia. And although many of them were capable men, they were handicapped by an ingrained suspicion of everything foreign and by the dictates of Marxian doctrine. Facts, no matter how reliable their source, were distrusted when they ran counter to the deterministic theories propounded by Communist thinkers.

On this point we have the most recent example in the startling confession of V. M. Molotov, the Soviet foreign minister and one of his government's most traveled officials, that he had committed an "ideological error" early this year.

In drawing his "harmful" conclusion about the as yet imperfect state of Socialist society in the Soviet Union, he may have based it on observations made on this side of the Iron Curtain. For what he said, he now confesses, "does not correspond to reality and contradicts numerous estimates of the results of construction of Socialism in the USSR given in party documents."

In other words, reality and party documents are one and the same thing. If one contradicts their estimates, one is out of touch with reality.